



State of Wyoming Military Department Office of the Adjutant General

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For immediate release

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Wyoming Army Guard program preps new recruits

CHEYENNE – The newest Wyoming Army National Guard Soldiers shoot more than 8,000 rounds from M-16 rifles, fly in UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and prepare for nuclear, biological, chemical attacks ... all before going to basic training.

The Soldiers are a part of the Wyoming Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program, which recently completed its first year. Currently 179 Soldiers are receiving key training before attending the U.S. Army's initial entry training courses.

Master Sgt. Harold Pafford is the noncommissioned officer in charge of RSP 1. His unit trains Soldiers from Casper to Laramie at Camp Guernsey, Wyo.

"In the past year, we have trained Soldiers on land navigation, NBC, first aid, drill and ceremony, air mobilization, physical fitness, Army values, standards of conduct and communications," Pafford said. "We incorporate and strongly encourage time building and leadership skills in all the training we conduct."

There are three RSP units in Wyoming at Camp Guernsey, Rock Springs and Worland. Each is tasked to take new Soldiers from that region and prepare them for the Army's training process.

To date Wyoming's RSP units have graduated 80 Soldiers, 13 of them honor graduates, from the Army's basic and advanced training sites. Those Soldiers trained under the supervision of Wyoming Army National Guard recruiters, like the ones currently in the program .

"Our recruiters are the mentors for the RSP Soldiers," Maj. Fred Fichtner, officer in charge of Wyoming's RSP, said. "They must be actively involved in all aspects of ensuring the RSP Soldier gets to drill, has what they need, gets their high school diploma

or GED and remains drug free...Our recruiters have a serious vested interest in a new recruit."

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Photographs available on request.

Suggested cutline: PROVIDING COVER FIRE – Pvt. Leslie Kinner, of Gillette, near, Pvt. Kimberly Byrd, of Cheyenne, middle, and Pvt. Amber Smith, of Wheatland, far, provide security for forces entering buildings at Camp Guernsey during a training exercise. The training is done under the supervision of Staff Sgt. David Munis, left, as part of the Wyoming Army National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program.